



## Mental health outcomes in police personnel after Hurricane Katrina

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### Abstract:

**OBJECTIVE:** We examined symptoms of depression and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) personnel who provided law enforcement and relief services to affected communities following Hurricane Katrina. **METHODS:** We conducted a cross-sectional survey of mental health outcomes related to personal and work-related exposures of police personnel 8 weeks after the Hurricane. **RESULTS:** Of the 912 police personnel who completed the questionnaire, 227 (26%) reported symptoms consistent with depression and 170 (19%) reported symptoms consistent with PTSD. Risk factors associated with PTSD include recovery of bodies, crowd control, assault, and injury to a family member. Depressive symptoms were associated with rare family contact, uninhabitable home, isolation from the NOPD, assault, and injury to a family member. **CONCLUSIONS:** Police personnel reported symptoms of PTSD and depression associated with work-related and personal factors following Hurricane Katrina.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/JOM.0b013e3181638685>

### Resource Description

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

**Other Communication Audience:** Police personnel

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Human Conflict/Displacement

**Extreme Weather Event:** Hurricanes/Cyclones

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal

#### Geographic Location:

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal



resource focuses on specific location

United States

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Mental Health/Stress

**Mental Health Effect/Stress:** Stress Disorder

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Workers

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

## **Resilience:**

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content